increase areas under Floriculture in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to increase flower cultivation in the country for boosting its export;

(c) whether any Central Scheme is proposed to be launched to grow flowers; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Government had constituted an Expert Group on Floriculture Development whose recommendations have been incorporated in the proposals for floriculture developmenet during the VIII Plan.

(c) and (d). The Central Government propose to implement a scheme or Integrated Development of Floriculture during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Garland Water Grid Scheme

3547. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a Garland Water Grid Scheme;

(b) if so, the details, thereof;

(c) whether any study has been conducted in this regards;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(e) the time by which the scheme is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The Government has prepared a National Perspective for Water Resources Development which envisages inter-linkages between the major rivers of the Peninsular region and between the Himalayan rivers separately for transfer of water from surplus to water short areas.

(b) The perspective comprised of two components, the Himalayan River Development and the Peninsular River Development. Studies on 19 water transfer links for the former and 17 for the later are involved.

(c) and (d). The National Water Development Agency of the Ministry of Water Resources has already prepared prefeasibility reports or links for peninsular River development component. These reports have been sent to the concerned State Governments for comments.

(e) All the studies including field survey and investigation are proposed to be completed by 2000 A.D.

[*English*]

Foodgrains Production

3548. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the foodgrains production in the country during 1991-92, grain-wise in each State;

(b) the foodgrains stock at present;

(c) whether the Government propose to export rice, Wheat and Sugar during the current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) It is too early to indicate grainwise production in each State as the final estimates of kharif foodgrains production for 1991-92 have not yet become due from the States and rabi sowings are in progress.

(b) The physical stocks of foodgrains on Central and State Governments account as on 1st November, 1991 was 14.9 million tonnes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As a part of the effort to increase foreign exchange earnings, it has been decided to export 8 lakh tonnes of wheat during 1991-92 from the stocks of food Corporation of India. A ceiling of 7 lakh tonnes of non-basmati rice has been released for exports during 1991-92. Export of Basmati rice is on OGL. It has also been decided to export 5.61 lakh tonnes of sugar during 1991-92.

Return of Gulf Returnees to their Respective Gulf Country

3549. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN
SHRI P.C. THOMAS
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the Gulf returnees in India who have not yet returned to their respective Gulf country including Kuwait; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for their speedy return to these countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Government have taken various steps to facilitate and speed the return of the Indian Nationals repatriated from the Gulf; these include waiver of Immigration Clearance Requirement, speedier issuance of passports and reintroduction of Air India flights to Kuwait. While an estimated 60,000 out of 150,000 have already gone back to Kuwait, at present about 1000 a week are going back.

[*Translation*]

Inquiry Committee Regarding Tunnel Accident in Orissa

3550. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have set up any Committee to inquire into the tunnel accident in Kalahandi district of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Committee on safety of tunnel work of Upper Indravati Hydro-Electric Project has been set up on 3rd of September, 1991 under the Chairmanship of Member (Hd), Central Water Commission, comprising the representatives from Central Water Commission and Central Electricity Authority to ascertain the causes which led to the flooding of the tunnel on 28.7.1991, to ascertain the extent and quantum of damage to the machineries and other works of national Projects Construction Corporation Ltd. and to examine the construction planning with a view to secure safety of the works. The Committee visited the project site from 14th to 18th November, 1991.

A Joint Team of the Chief Engineers of Central Water Commission and Central